a.) Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 1 after line 2, before line 3.

This application is a continuation of application No. 09/068,529 filed May 13, 1998

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 16 to read as follows:

Examples of the known methods for producing sugar nucleotides include: 1) chemical synthetic methods (Adv. Carbohydr. Chem. Biochem., 28, 307 (1973), Bull. Chem. Soc. Japan, 46, 3275 (1973), J. Org. Chem., 57, 146 (1992), Carbohydr. Res., 242, 69, (1993)); 2) production methods using an enzyme (J. Org. Chem., 55, 1834 (~~1992~~ 1990), J. Org. Chem., 57, 152 (1992), J. Am. Chem. Soc., 110, 7159 (1988), Japanese Published National Publication No. 508413/95, Japanese Published National Publication No. ~~5000248/95~~ 500248/95, WO 95/27670); 3) methods using microbial cells such as yeast and the like (Japanese Examined Patent Application No. 2073/70, Japanese Published Examined Patent Application No. 40756/71, Japanese Published Examined Patent Application No. 1837/72, Japanese Published Examined Patent Application No. 26703/72, Japanese Published Examined Patent Application No. 8278/74, Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 268692/90); and 4) an extraction method from microbial cells of halo-tolerant yeast (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 23993/96).

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 11, line 3 to read as follows:

Examples of the sugar used in the formation of the sugar nucleotide include glucose, glactose, glucosamine, N-acetylglucosamine, N-acetylgalactosamine, and the like.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 11, line 15 to read as follows:

Examples of the energy source include carbohydrate (for example, glucose, fructose, sucrose, lactose, maltose, mannitol, sorbitol, molasses, starch hydrolysate, etc.), organic acids, (for example, pyruvic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid, etc.), amino acids (for example, glycerine, alanine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, etc), ~~molasses, start hydrolysate,~~ and the like, which may be used at a concentration of from 0.02 to 2.0 M.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 13, line 11 to read as follows:

Determination of the sugar nucleotide formed in the aqueous medium can be carried out in accordance with a known method, for example, isolation and determination of ~~UDP-Glc and UDP-Gal~~ uridine-5'-diphosphate glucose (UDP-Glc), uridine-5'-disphosphate galactose (UDP-Gal) can be carried out by the high performance liquid chromatography (referred to as "HPLC" hereinafter) method described in Anal. Biochem., 216, 188-194 (1994). In addition, isolation and determination of ~~UDP-GlcNAc~~ , uridine-5'-diphosphate N-acetylglucosamine (UDP-GlcNAc), uridine-5'-diphosphate N-acetylgalactosamine (UDP-GalNAc) can be carried out by HPLC under the following conditions:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 16, line 6 to read as follows:

Examples of the treated product of the culture broth include a concentrated product of the culture broth, a dried product of the culture broth, cells (microbial cells) obtained by centrifuging the culture broth, a dried product of the cells, a freeze-dried product of the cells, a surfactant-treated product of the cells, an ~~organic~~ ultrasonic-treated product of the cells, a mechanically disrupted product of the cells, a solvent-treated product of the cells, ~~a lytic~~ an immobilized product of the cells, an enzyme preparation obtained by extracting from the cells, a protein fraction of the cells, and the like.